

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action dated December 4, 2003, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Abe et al. reference does not teach or suggest the invention as taught and claimed by Applicant. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner is incorrect in the analysis of the Abe et al. reference. The present invention is directed to a method for storing and retrieving information stored on a digital print. Claim 1 includes the limitation of printing an image onto a media using a digital printer, then printing a coordinate system onto the media over said image on said digital print that is not visible to the human eye under normal viewing conditions. This requires that the image be printed first and then the coordinate system placed on top of it. This is in contrast to the Abe et al. reference where the coordinate system is printed first and the image applied afterwards. This is due to the fact that the coordinate system is used to define the area in which the image is to be printed. Obviously, if the image is printed first, there is no need to define the boundary of where the image is to be placed, therefore, the coordinate system of Abe et al. must be printed first prior to the placement of the image. This is in contrast to the specific claim language of the present invention. In fact, since the coordinate system must be printed first in the Abe et al. reference, it teaches away from the present invention and, therefore, would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Abe reference to arrive at Applicant's invention.

C21/55 to
C22/11
C22/40-48
C26/18-34
C28/45-49

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the Abe et al. reference does not provide additional information as taught and claimed by Applicant. Claim 1 of the present invention specifically sets forth that the additional information provides information with respect to the content of the image at a specific area. The barcode information 5303 in Abe et al. is information with respect to detecting the absolute position of the tiles on the recording medium. See column 15, lines 41-48. In this regard, it is believed that the numeral 1602 in lines 42 and 45 should be 1503 as 1602 refers to first frame memory as illustrated in flowchart Figure 16 whereas the barcode 1503 is clearly set forth in Figure 15. It is this barcode information that is used to detect the absolute positions of the respected tiles on the recorded medium. This is in contrast to the present invention which is directed to providing information with regard to the image that has been printed onto the media. There is no information provided in Abe et al. that relates to the image to be printed only with respect to where the image is to be placed. The image content of the present invention is

Tile info added
C15/31-41



directed to the information with regard to the image itself and not to where the image is to be placed.

In view of the foregoing Applicant respectfully submits that the claims in their present form are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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FEB 26 2004

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